



*Feasting  
on  
Prosperity*

Frances Hunter

# **Feasting on Prosperity**

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## **Internet Edition**

## **Introduction**

Prosperity is one of the most exciting areas of the Bible to study because it speaks to just about everyone right in their immediate area of need. You can go to any type of Christian gathering and ask, “How many out there need a financial miracle?”, and a sea of hands will wave all over the auditorium. Either the people of God don’t have enough money, or they are not managing well the money they do have. They need to be taught the principles which you are going to feast on throughout this book.

It is hard to believe that people debate whether or not God wants His people to prosper. Some believe God wants you poor, and the poorer you are, the more spiritual you are. That is wrong thinking. Nowhere in the Bible does God say “I want you to live in lack and have mountains of debt so you can be holy.” A life of poverty does not make anyone holy; it means there is less money available for the body of Christ to use in reaching the world for Jesus!

**God has so much to say about prosperity that both the Old Testament and the New**

Testament are full of instructions on how to receive financial blessings. When Christians really develop the right thinking, there is going to be a transfer of wealth in the body of Christ which will knock Satan over. It takes money to do what God wants done. When you apply God's principles, you are going to get right in the middle of God's will for prosperity!

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## **The Three Components of Prosperity**

Are you ready for one of the most profitable spiritual feasts that you have ever had? Prosperity is an area where there are often people who are starving rather than feasting. The body of Christ probably has more problems in the area of prosperity than in any other area of their life. What I really believe is that we have more problems in *giving this area to God* than we do anything else.

Have you ever said, "God, I can trust You with my soul. I can trust You with my life. I can trust You with my healing. I can trust You with my marriage. I can trust You with my children, but I'm going to hang on



to my own money! I've got to manage every single penny of it because it's all spoken for!"

When you are worried about having enough money just to get by on, your mind says, "I need to stay in control." When your bills are not being paid, and you believe there is always something just around the corner that is going to rob you as soon as you start to get ahead, your thinking becomes clouded. So I want to retrain your thinking. I want to show you the secret of prosperity, because it is so simple.

The first step is for you to know that, whatever your financial status is right now, *God's prosperity is for you.* When I was a student in school, I learned the basics of English grammar. The subject of a sentence is what the sentence is about. *Prosperity* is the subject not only of that little sentence, but it is the subject of a great deal of the word of God. Accept in your thinking that prosperity is a good thing. Prosperity is attainable by the people of God. *Prosperity is a blessing God wants you to possess.*

Secondly, in that sentence, God's *prosperity is for you*, what is the destination for that prosperity? Its destination is *you*.

You are to be the object, the recipient, the holder of prosperity.

Now let's add the emphasis that is going to change your thinking. God's prosperity is for you. When you put the emphasis on God, you should feel a little leap inside your spirit. All three words working together - *God, prosperity, and you* - are the answer to prosperity.

When you put the emphasis on God, it takes the pressure off of you. God is not in debt. God is not searching for a new job.

Psalms 50:10 says, *For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.*

If God's prosperity is for you, and if He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, with the price of beef being what it is today, that means your Father is pretty wealthy, doesn't it? But your Father not only owns the cattle on a thousand hills, He owns the hills, He owns the grass that is on the hills, and He owns everything that is underneath the hills. All the riches that lie on or beneath the earth were put there during the time of creation, to bless God's people until Jesus returns. If sinners have gotten hold of some of it, don't worry – God has plans that will be fulfilled

in days to come. Prosperity is intended and set aside for you, God's child.

## Prosperity by Design

The subject of prosperity actually began in the book of Genesis. When God created the heavens and the earth, and when He created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave them everything, didn't He? He gave them every form of provision they would ever need for a beautiful and fruitful life. He gave them dominion over the fowls of the air. He gave them dominion over the creatures of the sea. He gave them authority and ownership over everything that existed in the earth.

What did God have in mind when He created a human being from the dust of the earth, and breathed life into him, and then gave to this newly created human such incredible provision and ownership of every living thing?

God wanted fellowship. He wanted a family. He wanted these new human creatures to be his very own children, and He wanted the very best for His children. Do you think God would place his supreme creation, Adam, in the earth and breathe His



own breath of life into him, and then point out to him that he was on his own from that time forth? Can you picture God creating Adam in one of the desolate places of the earth and saying, “Well, Adam, I hope you’ll be ok out there in the wilderness; maybe you can find a few lizards in the sand to eat. Watch out for the lions, they feed in the evening, and they have a preference for humans. When you want a drink of water, just keep searching and, one day, you might find a pool with a little muddy water left in it.”

You wouldn’t bring your children into the world and not provide for them, and neither would God!

God brought Adam and Eve into existence in a garden that was intended to be a utopia. There has never been any habitation on earth that was as complete and perfect as the Garden of Eden. God provided all the fresh water they needed, every kind of delicious food from trees and plants, and all the beauty and peace of absolute perfection. There was no lack of anything they would ever have needed; and I believe if they actually did discover some need in their life, God would have immediately provided it. He wanted to walk in the cool of

the day with his children, and enjoy their children and their children's children. Why would He want any of the growing family He was anticipating to think He was stingy?

Adam and Eve had it all. Then, through disobedience, they ruined the beautiful, abundant life God had provided them. **But God is never taken by surprise, and He had a plan.**

God is Love. He never stops loving us, in spite of what we do. After man sinned, God laid down some laws concerning prosperity. The beautiful thing about the laws of prosperity is that they can only do good for you. Every one of God's laws is for your good and for your benefit. God is kind. He is generous. He wants to reward and heap prosperity on those who pay attention to his laws.

When God first began to speak to me about prosperity, it was in the book of Deuteronomy. These laws were given to Moses, but they are eternal laws. When Joshua became leader of Israel, the laws were still in effect. **All the way through the Old and New Testaments, up to today, and until Jesus returns, God's laws of prosperity will remain effective.**

## The Blessing of Obedience

In Deuteronomy 8, God was talking to Moses, and He said, *Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, (notice what He says next) and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.*

God told Moses that He had not changed His plans. The land which had been promised to their fathers now rightfully belonged to the new generation. However, there would be enemies who would withstand them, and they would need supernatural help when they went in to claim the territory. *The people would have to have an obedient relationship with the Lord in order to possess the promise.*

God wants us to have everything that rightfully belongs to us. We, too, have enemies we will have to overcome, and we must look to God's word to provide us with instructions on how to receive His promises.

*2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart,*

*whether you would keep His commandments or not.*

God knows what is in your heart. You cannot fool God. You can't say, "Now, God, I'm being obedient to you," and then turn around and live in sin or careless disregard for God's word. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God knew which ones had a disobedient, rebellious heart and which ones were committed to serve and honor Him. He knew which ones trusted Him and which ones believed only in what they could see with their eyes. Right now, as He watchfully considers each one of us, He knows if there is anything that needs to be brought out in the open so it can be dealt with.

*3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna (Even though God allowed them to experience hunger for some of the things they were used to, He still fed them abundantly) which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.*

## **God's Life is in His Word**

How do we live? Are we truly living when we shuffle through each day with no zeal, no purpose, no heart of praise and thanksgiving? Are we living when all of our thoughts and energy are consumed with where the next dollar is coming from and how fast it's going to go? No one can enjoy life that way!

God wants every one of us to enjoy life. How can we do it? We live and enjoy life not by bread – or possessions – alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. In God's word is purpose. In God's word is life. In God's word is hope, direction and enthusiasm for each day, every day. God's word is given to us, first, to provide all we need to enjoy life – and then to take us beyond ourselves, which brings us to higher levels of truly living an abundant life.

Why does God place such emphasis on obeying His word? God doesn't say just to obey the Ten Commandments. The commandments are the basis for living a life that glorifies God, but His word contains much more than commandments. There is



good reason for God to want us to meditate on His word day and night.

Do you realize that every scripture is God-breathed? 2 Timothy 3:16 says that *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*. In the Greek, the word *inspired* comes from the compound word, *Theopneustos*, which means “God-breathed.” The breath that God breathed into Adam’s body of dust and brought it to vibrant life is the same breath that He breathed into every word in the Bible.

**This is why God’s word is alive!** The breath of His life flows right into you from every page of God’s word. Whether you hear His word spoken in a church or seminar, whether it comes to you through your eyes reading it, or whether it comes out of your lips when you speak it – real life, vibrant faith, unshakable belief comes to you by the word of God. His living word is given to you so that you might truly prosper as you obey what God speaks to you.

## **Prosperity in Your Possessions**

I love what God did for the Israelites when they were out there wandering around for forty years. Their life of slavery in Egypt

had not provided them with a very extensive wardrobe, and there were no places for them to shop for new clothes in the wilderness, so God extended the life of the clothes they were wearing when they left Egypt.

Deuteronomy 8:4 says, *Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.* Some of you might have a thing or two in your closet that is forty years old, but did you ever stop to think that, if you had been in that group of people as a little child, your clothes would have grown right along with you! Your shoes would have increased in size along with your foot, and you would not have gotten swollen, blistered feet!

I remember one time when I lived in St. Louis, Missouri, and a group of us teenagers walked home from Belleville, Illinois, which is about seventeen miles. We had to walk across a municipal bridge and mile after mile of hot pavement. By the time we got home, my feet were so blistered and swollen that I couldn't walk for days, and neither could anybody else that was on that hike. But for forty years, the children of God walked and walked and never had a blister.

God is able to send prosperity to any situation!

When Charles and I were married, we bought a new set of sheets for our bed. We both had a lot of sheets and pillow cases from our individual homes; but because we had our bedroom redone in red velvet, we thought it would be really exciting to have some matching sheets, so we went shopping and picked out a set of red satin sheets. We loved to sleep on those sheets because they were nice and cool to lie down on, and we felt they were the most comfortable sheets in the world.

Year after year, we never took any of the other sheets out of the closet. When I got up in the morning, I would take the sheets off our bed and throw them into the washing machine, transfer them to the dryer, and put them right back on the bed. You would think those satin sheets would have worn out after being washed hundreds and hundreds of times! But they were as beautiful when we finally redecorated our bedroom as they were the first day we bought them. Why? *Because thy raiment waxed not old upon thee.* I am always so thrilled when God knows the most intimate desires of my heart. He gave special prosperity to our sheets because He knew how much we enjoyed them, and He extended their natural sheet

life for many, many years beyond the ordinary.

Many times, we think that to prosper we need to have a lot more money. But God has the ability to stretch the life of things so that you don't have to spend the money to replace what would normally wear out.

Charles and I also had a set of bath towels that we used for years and years without ever taking any other towels out of the closet. When the towels we enjoyed using got dirty, they went into the washer and dryer and then right back onto the towel racks in the bathroom. We never did wear out that set of towels.

God has the ability to stretch the life of your clothes, to stretch the life of your shoes, to stretch the life of everything that you have in your home.

Many people have wondered over the years whether I have a lot of clothes. They are often amazed when I come back the next year, and the year after, and I'm still wearing clothes they have seen before. When I shop, I pick out dresses that I like, and the next year I still like them, so God blesses me by extending the life of my dresses. I suppose when they get to the point where I feel they look old, I might give them

away or throw them away, but I really haven't found a dress yet that I felt got old. They all go into the washing machine – all those long dresses of mine go in the washer – week after week, but they don't wear out.

God has the ability to maintain your prosperity in many areas which will be a blessing to you. I believe that God will bless the life of your car, the appliances in your home, or keep your home safe from disaster, as a form of your prosperity. He has the ability to make everything you have last a long time.

## **The Love of a Father Has Expectations**

Deuteronomy 8:5-6 begins to outline some of God's conditions for prosperity:

*You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.*

We, as natural parents, do not reward our children for disobedience. We want them to grow into loving adults and good citizens with strong character. So we let them know what we expect of them. It would be wrong



of us to let our children grow up doing anything and everything that came into their immature minds, without ever correcting them. God has a commitment to help us to grow into better Christians, and He loves us enough to correct us when we are wrong. He will not reward foolishness and rebellion.

Are you walking in the fear and reverence for God that He requires? Do you believe there are rewards that God has waiting for you?

One thing God wanted to do was encourage the children of Israel by letting them know what was ahead for them if they chose to obey Him. They had been living as slaves in Egypt. Slaves who made bricks of mud and who worked in the fields of the Egyptians did not eat from the tables of their masters. They received meager portions of the poorest quality grains and rotted fruit that the Egyptians would not feed their own families. God saw what they had lacked, and He wanted to lead His people to a life of abundance. Verses 7-9 describe what He was preparing for them:

*For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and*

*barley, of vines and of trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.*

If people would just believe that God is not a God of lack, and that He is a God of abundance, their faith for prosperity would grow by leaps and bounds. Just look at what the Lord wanted His people to look forward to receiving: a land with plenty of fresh water flowing everywhere, a land of the finest grains and fresh, plump fruits for their table, a land where their children would not go to bed hungry, and where they would not lack anything.

We would be concerned if our children were not eating properly, would we not? God was moved with compassion when His people were mistreated, overworked, and given insufficient food and water by their taskmasters. When He sent Moses to lead them out from those conditions, I believe God literally could hardly wait to see his people planted in a land where they could enjoy everything they had been deprived of for hundreds of years. Does that not make your faith leap, to know that God truly

wants our lives to overflow with His goodness?

I want you to notice that, when God's people arrived in the land of abundance, He also was going to provide materials to make life productive and satisfying. Many of those who had been confined to back-breaking and monotonous tasks were gifted and talented craftsmen. God let them know that this land would be full of iron and copper for them to craft into useful tools and beautiful ornaments. People would be allowed to use their God-given talents to bring joy and satisfaction to their lives, as well as to provide a means of increasing their prosperity.

Many times, people have a wrong idea about prosperity. They think God is going to rain prosperity down on them like April showers. Usually God will give you inspirational ideas, wisdom for witty inventions, and sound financial abilities to help increase and manage your finances. He will give you divine connections and lead you to open doors. All are examples of God's power working to help you grow prosperous.

Once God's children went into the promised land and possessed it, there would

be a time of rest and refreshing, and then they would discover resources all around them to build and invent and improve their environment.

## **A Thankful Heart Blesses God**

Verse 10 says, *When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.*

Would you sit down at a banquet table, hosted by a ruler of high authority, eat your fill and take home gifts and delicacies for your family, and fail to thank your host? In other words, don't be rude to a loving God and Father. Don't take your blessings for granted. Thank Him for wherever you are, for whatever you have. Thank God for the house you live in. Thank God for the apartment you live in. Thank God for the city you live in, for the country you live in. Thank Him, thank Him, thank Him – bless the Lord for the good land which He has given you. Even if you are not where you want to be just now, if you can see to read this page, you have something priceless to be thankful for. If you have a mind to dream of a better future, you have a precious gift. If

you can turn your head or raise your hand and greet a loved one with a smile or a wave, thank God continually.

Deuteronomy 8:11-15 continues: *Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest – when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—*

So many times, when we are poor, or in debt, or

attempting to rise out of lack, we cry out, “Oh God! Oh God! Bless me! Prosper me!



Prosper me, oh, God, and when I have a lot of money, I will do this or that for you.”

Then we hear the word of God, and we believe; we use our faith, and we begin to receive the blessings we asked for. We pay off those debts and get a new television and a new car and begin shopping for a bigger house in a better neighborhood. God knows human nature. He pleaded with His people thousands of years ago, to not forget Him when they came out of their poverty into the land of milk and honey. He reminded them of the tender love He had shown to them and all the miracles He had done in order to provide for their needs.

God should not have to remind us of our blessings. He shouldn't have to plead with us to remember Him. He wants us to just look up to the heavens spontaneously and say, “Oh Father, I am so grateful for You. You are so good. Thank You for such wonderful ways that You have taken care of me. I just want to praise You with all my heart and soul!”

Verse 17 is one of caution. It says, *then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’*

Haven't you heard people say those very words? In these days, it is said more like, "Oh, wow, I'm smart. I did this great business deal. I went into that big corporation and talked to the boss, and he gave me everything I wanted. *My power (my talent) and the might of my hand (my knowledge) have gained me this wealth.*"

## God Resists the Proud

There is a little story in Daniel 4:28-34 that has always fascinated me. King Nebuchadnezzar was reigning over Babylon in great power and prosperity, and he became lifted up in pride and failed to give God glory.

*At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"*

*While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They*

*shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”*

*That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.*

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.

It was always incredulous to me to visualize a rich and powerful king out in the fields eating grass like the oxen, not for just a few days but for seven years. I don’t ever want to be in a position where God resists me, do you? **The way to have God bless you and not resist you is appreciate Him and give Him the glory for what He has done.** Wouldn’t it be much better for your success to be shared with others as a witness to

God's love and faithfulness than for God to have to remove you from your position of prosperity and influence?

## **God is Not an Unfit Parent**

Here is a verse I want you to memorize. Deuteronomy 8:18: *And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth.*

God knows what your talents are. He knows what kind of debt you have. He knows if your children are lacking anything; and He wants to lead you right into the land of milk and honey. It is He who gives you power to get wealth, because you are His child and He wants you to have the best of everything. Let's finish that verse:

*And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

God's covenant was that He would be responsible to provide for every need for His people for as long as they lived, if they would obey Him. If God's people did seek Him and did their best to live as He told them to, He was bound by his word to

provide all of their needs, forever. God wanted other nations to see how well He took care of His children. He wanted the enemies of His people to see His favor all over them.

How would it look if you had a son or daughter who always tried to please you and never caused you any trouble, and you dressed them in dirty rags, sent them to school without any pencils or paper or lunch money, and fed them only watered down broth every night for dinner? In this day and time, local authorities would soon be knocking on your door to investigate and see if you were fit to keep your children.

How can anyone believe that God treats His children like the unfit earthly parents whose children are taken away from them? How can any Christian believe that God wants them to be in poverty? As you read through this book, I want you to be so convinced of God's love for you and His overwhelming desire to bless you that you will claim your blessings, ask God to send your angels to get to work on your behalf, and trust God and thank Him for everything He is going to do for you, even if you don't see it yet.



How can God give us anything good if we don't believe in His goodness? If you have ever put God in the same class as a child abuser who doesn't meet the basic needs of their children, I want you to repent right this moment, and tell Him how much you love Him and trust Him, and then thank Him, thank Him, thank Him.

## **A Promise We Don't Want to Receive**

There is a promise for those who do not recognize God's hand in their life or thank Him for his goodness.

Deuteronomy 8:19 is a solemn warning: *Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.*

Those who lift themselves up in pride because they have gained great wealth and who boast of all their self-made success have forgotten God. They have made money their god or looked to things money can buy as idols in their life. As surely as God has spoken, they are going to perish.

The promise to the proud and the wicked is one from which we can escape if we are obedient and thankful. Don't forget the Lord who loves you and has given you increase and abundance. Don't grieve Him with an ungrateful heart.

When you receive your promotion, or whatever means God uses to multiply your finances, don't be ashamed to say, "God did it! I give Him all the praise and glory!" If you can believe that God will give you power to get wealth, and then you see Him at work in your life to bring you to a new level of prosperity, don't you think it's time to get down on your knees and thank Him for it?

God said, "Be careful" and "Beware" of forgetting the Lord in your prosperity. Those words are strong warnings that there are traps and dangers ahead. You may feel that you would never worship other gods and that you would never follow evil ways. But God knows how quickly someone can change a life of prayer and praise and dependence on Him, over to pride and haughtiness when they have reached a point of financial abundance. God simply wants to protect us from the love of money. He wants to protect us from temptations that could soil

our integrity. He wants to protect us from having an ego problem and turning away from our first love, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Prerequisites for Prosperity**

Did you know that there are prerequisites for Gods' prosperity? Many times we take a verse of scripture out of context, and we believe that just because we confess and believe that one verse, that is going to mean God's true prosperity will be ours. In doing so, we fail to receive the real blessings God has for us, which go beyond finances.

I think it is interesting that prosperity begins in the Old Testament and goes all the way through the Psalms, Proverbs and the Prophets and then all the way through the New Testament and ends up with God in heaven surrounded with gold and diamonds, rubies and pearls, and fabulous jewels beyond our imagination. God is ever conscious of His children and their need to prosper. He desires to develop the whole person, however, not just their bank account.

I want to show you some of the prerequisites of prosperity that are mentioned in the Old Testament. You might have heard someone say, "The Old

Testament was replaced by the New Testament.” No, the New Testament revealed Jesus, who came to fulfill the Old Testament. The Old Testament lays a foundation which portrays the heart of a wise and loving heavenly Father. The Old Testament reveals God’s nature and human nature, and the conflict between the two. The Old Testament depicts a God who rewards good and punishes evil. It reveals God’s longing to love and to bless us, and His constant cry for His people to call on Him, trust Him and obey Him.

Jesus preached the Old Testament and demonstrated in the flesh the Father’s love. If God’s heart is first revealed in the Old Testament, and later demonstrated by Jesus, we can rely on the fact that God has not changed. We can learn from what was revealed to Adam, Abraham and Moses, David, Solomon, and the prophets. Some of the greatest truths of history and most notable words of God are recorded in the Old Testament.

### **Remember the Needy**

Deuteronomy 15:4-10, in the Living Bible, says:

*For the Lord will greatly bless you in the land he is giving you if you obey this command. The only prerequisite for his blessing is that you carefully heed all the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today. He will bless you as he has promised. You shall lend money to many nations but will never need to borrow! You shall rule many nations, but they shall not rule over you! But if, when you arrive in the land the Lord will give you, there are any among you who are poor, you must not shut your heart or hand against them; you must lend them as much as they need. Beware! Don't refuse a loan because the year of debt cancellation is close at hand! If you refuse to make the loan and the needy man cries out to the Lord, it will be counted against you as a sin. You must lend him what he needs, and don't moan about it either! For the Lord will prosper you in everything you do because of this!*

In other words, God said that, when they became prosperous, there was a responsibility to bless the poor and needy around them. God told them to loan the needy some money, but not to worry about them repaying it. In those days, every seven years was a time of debt cancellation, and if

someone owed money to another, the debt was cancelled. So God told them to not let their generosity be hindered by thinking about whether or not they were going to be paid back.

I think that is good advice for us today when we loan money. If God points out someone that you feel strongly to bless financially, don't put a burden on them of having to pay it back. It is better to just give your gift to them and say, "God blessed me, and I'm blessing you." Then, the Lord will see what you have done, and He will prosper you.

There are a lot of needy people all around you. God would be very disappointed if you became prosperous and then stored up all that prosperity just for yourself. But that doesn't mean you have to stretch your hand to every needy person in your city or even on your block. When God is directing you, certain needy ones will stand out to you. Often they will be people who are close to you. You may have elderly parents, or children who are struggling to pay bills, or a family member who could really use a financial blessing. God has blessed you, so you bless them.

Some of the greatest blessings you can receive are in obeying the Holy Spirit and just slipping some money into someone's hand when God says, "They have a need right now, and I want you to bless them." It might be someone you know, and it might be a perfect stranger who is sitting near you in a restaurant or in church. To be able to give and help someone is one of the greatest joys of prosperity.

In the New King James, verse 10 says, *the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand*. Besides the joy of obeying God, and the satisfaction of helping someone's needs to be met, you will be rewarded by God prospering everything you do! Just think! Everything, everything, everything that you set your hand to is going to prosper because of your compassion to others.

## **Bless Those Who Leave You**

There is a special blessing in releasing someone to go and do what God called them to do. Deuteronomy 15:12-14 (TLB) says, If you buy a Hebrew slave, whether a man or woman, you must free him at the end of the sixth year you have owned him, and don't



send him away empty-handed! Give him a large farewell present from your flock, your olive press, and your wine press. Share with him in proportion as the Lord your God has blessed you...and the Lord your God will prosper all you do because you have released him! (verse 18).

Let me explain this in today's language. Every once in a while in Hunter Ministries, we have an employee who feels that God has called them on to another place. We once had a girl who was doing an excellent job and was very valuable to us because she was so efficient. She came to us and explained that God had called her into a church where she could sing in the choir and work with young people, and she would not be able to continue working full time with us. We "set her free" with our blessing. Whenever someone leaves your employment, or your ministry, or some type of service to you, God said that He will bless and prosper you if you release them with your blessing.

I want to add here that, even if someone leaves you on not the best of terms, God will prosper you if you let them move on in their life with your blessing. God cannot prosper you if you hold a grudge or bitterness

toward that person, so release them, knowing that, as you bless them, God will bless you.

These prosperity blessings were spoken in the days of Moses. But Moses died, so what happened? Did God's prosperity go down the drain? Did God just say to Moses that His people in that day would be prosperous if they obeyed, and that would be the end of it? No, along came Joshua, and Joshua was promised exactly the same thing that Moses was promised.

### **Stake Your Claim**

Joshua 1:1-3 says, *After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them – the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.*

That verse has a very special meaning to Charles and me. Several years ago, Charles and I went out and we walked on a piece of property that is a beautiful wooded area of

about twenty-six acres. We walked all over that property and we claimed it. We stood upon this verse and said, “God, we believe that every place upon which the soles of our feet shall tread shall be given to us just like You promised Moses.”

We saw that very promise come into existence, because God honored our faith, and He honored His word. We dedicated that property to the Lord, and it was used as our ministry headquarters for many years, sending the Gospel out into all the world and training believers to do the work of the ministry.

I believe God honors what you claim for His glory. He isn't going to honor you driving up to the White House and claiming that property. He honors what you claim by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It could be a piece of property for a ministry, or it could be a nice lot on which to build your home. If it is the desire of your heart, and if God is prompting you to claim it and believe Him for it, He will help you to receive it.

You can also stake a spiritual claim over every place upon which the soles of your feet shall tread. Everywhere we go, we claim that land and its people for the kingdom of God. We have friends who walk

around their neighborhood, praying for all their neighbors and claiming them for the Lord. God hears those claims, and He is ever mindful of the power of your words as you claim territory for His glory.

## **God Will Back You in the Land of Your Enemies**

Joshua 1:4-5 describes the magnitude of what God was giving to His people and how He would help them to possess it: *From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.*

Do you know what my Bible says? It says, “Frances, I will be with you; I will not leave you nor forsake you.” Put your name in there and see what it sounds like!

Verses 6-7 is a beautiful passage of God’s encouraging words to Joshua:

*Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their*

*fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*

God was preparing Joshua for battle. There would be enemies that would try to keep the Israelites from possessing their land of prosperity. God promised that they would receive every bit of their inheritance if they would believe God and not doubt, if they would not give in to pressures from the enemies, and if they would not turn away from the Lord.

Isn't this the same thing God would tell us today if He were sitting down with us advising us on how to get to our land of prosperity?

He would let us know He was with us.

He would warn us about enemies we would have to conquer – enemies like doubt, unbelief, obstacles, hardship, times of having to start over.

He would tell us to keep our courage and don't think of quitting.

He would remind us to keep Him first in our life and not stray from His commandments.

He would smile and give us His word that if we did these things, we would prosper in everything we do, wherever we go – just like He said to Moses and just like He said to Joshua.

Then He would tell us the key to being able to believe Him and stay courageous:

## **How to Believe and Receive**

Verse 8: *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.* The Amplified says, *...and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.*

The word of God is what will give you wings to soar over obstacles. The word of God in your heart and in your mouth will give you courage and faith. The word of God will give you wisdom. The word of God will lighten your pathway and bring you into the success you desire. But it won't happen by reading a verse here and there every now and then. **It will happen when you meditate on God's Word day and night and make it the standard for your life.**

God's message to Joshua continued with an unusual command. We usually think of commands coming from someone in a military position – a high ranking officer giving an order to an enlisted person or to an officer of lower rank. A command is not an option. It is to be obeyed. Do you want to get into the mind of God when it comes to the kind of faith He expects from you? Look at this command:

God says in Joshua 1:9, *Have not I commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

God had already told Joshua to be strong and of good courage. When there are repetitive statements from God to his people, it is to show added emphasis on the importance of what He is saying. In these words to Joshua, God is restating his earlier advice as a command, letting him know that there is absolutely no excuse for fear, confusion, doubt or hesitation in going wherever God directs.

God is adamant that *the Lord your God is with you*, and He doesn't expect any insubordination – He expects his people to trust Him. Put yourself into that scripture,



and let faith in God's nearness and faithfulness rise up in you. When you are going into your promised land, be it healing, prosperity or any blessing God wants you to have, you must remember that God said He would be with you wherever you are going, and then you go and keep going until you receive what God has for you.

Verses 10-11 tell what Joshua did: *Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'"*

What would you have done if you had about six million people you were responsible for and a river to cross with babies and herds and flocks tagging along? Joshua could have said, "Oh, I don't know what I'm going to do! I don't know how to start! No way can we get over there. We've got too many people. I can't swim. The women and babies aren't strong enough. What about all the animals?"

Does your mind jump back at you with all kinds of questions when you know that you know God has directed you to do

something? You can starve yourself of God's blessings with those kinds of questions, or you can feast on God's assurance that He is with you wherever you go.

Fortunately, Joshua's heart had been proved to God many years before when he went over to the land of Canaan as a spy and came back with a good report, declaring, "We can DO this!" So, Joshua commanded the officers of the people and told them to start packing and get ready to cross over the Jordan and possess that land God had promised. As Christians, oftentimes we need to stop making excuses and get up and DO something.

Joshua delegated God's command to his officers, who branched out and got word to all the people. Forty years earlier, an entire generation had responded to God's command with fear and doubt; and they had died in the wilderness. Joshua and a new generation now had another chance to obey the Lord and take the land. Verses 16-17 describe how this new generation rose to the challenge instead of cowering in unbelief:

So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we

heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.”

Joshua had waited patiently for forty years for a generation of people to grow up and believe God with him for the miraculous. Can you imagine the joy he felt as a leader when all of those people responded with faith and obedience? Instead of the people crying out as their ancestors had, “There’s no way we can do it,” this generation cried out, “There’s no way we can’t do it! God is with us!”

Do you know how God took care of that river they had to cross?

Joshua 3:15-16 says, *And as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt*

*Sea, failed, and were cut off, and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.*

God parted the waters of the Jordan River when it was at its deepest point in the entire year, and the people walked through just as their grandparents had walked through the Red Sea. I want to show you two different ways that God worked these very similar miracles.

Back at the Red Sea, God's mercy parted the sea for His beaten down, oppressed children who were escaping their slavery. God pitied them. He knew they didn't have any faith yet; they had just barely managed to survive the cruelty of their masters. He led them patiently, and proved His faithfulness over and over to them, to lift them up from the devastation they had experienced.

There are people who are now reading this book who have suffered devastation in recent years. Some of you have lost your home or your job or your business, due to upheavals in nature or a slowing economy. Some of you have seen the desires of your heart vanish before your eyes. You may feel you are in a foreign land barely surviving.

God is reaching out to you in mercy right this minute. He has seen your loss. He

knows what you need. He is moved with compassion, and He wants you to learn from His word how you can overcome devastating losses and possess a bright future.

The older generation of Israelites watched as God parted the Red Sea in His mercy. They received miracle after miracle. After a while, God expected them to begin exercising a little faith. Yet, when it was time to possess the land of promise, and they arrived at the Jordan, their faith shrank back from the tribes on the other side, and they chose to remain in the wilderness.

Forty years passed, and a new generation arrived at the Jordan. This group had been taught the word of God for four decades. They heard of the miracles that God had done for their fathers. They had a courageous leader who encouraged them to believe God. And they remembered that, even though their fathers had received so much from God, they still had not developed their faith enough to get into the promised land.

This generation made up their minds to trust God. When they arrived at the Jordan, they were strong and courageous. Their

miracle came not from God's pity, but from their faith!

God is not a God of status quo. He is energy and power and progress and creativity. He moves forward, and He moves His people forward. God will move you from a mode of passively receiving His blessings to a mode of advancing aggressively into His blessings by using your faith.

I want you to learn from the victories that God gave to Joshua, that wherever you are in your faith, and wherever you need to go in your life, He is with you. He commands you right now to do these two things:

*First, This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Get into God's word. There is recovery in His word. The wisdom you need is in His word. When your mind is in tune with God's Holy Spirit, He will give you ideas, direction and divine contacts. You will hear His voice, and He will lead you through open doors of opportunity.

Second, *Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Loss of a home or a job or a business is devastating. But God wants you to rise up and recover from your loss. I am absolutely certain that if you make up your mind that every day is a new day and you get up and proclaim, “This is the

day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it,” you are going to begin to have a new outlook on life.

Be strong. Let the word of God put courage in your heart and soul. Don’t be afraid or confused. The Lord your God is with you. Prosperity of spirit, soul, body and finances are His plan for you. You can do it.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 assures that when you trust in the Lord, you are going to be healthy, productive and prosperous, even when you face difficult times:

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.*



This is a promise for those who trust God. Regardless of when the heat comes – the pressures and hard times of life – or when the drought comes – the crushing blows and unforeseen upheavals that seem devastating – you will come through it; you will prosper; your life will continue to have productivity and value.

### **Giving With a David Attitude**

There is another very interesting lesson in the Old Testament in 1 Chronicles 29. This tells such an interesting thing that David did when he was bringing gifts for the temple. We have been concentrating so far on *God* giving, giving, giving. Now you will notice that the Bible begins to turn toward what *we* give, and in this case it was King David.

David had longed for many years to build the Lord a temple that was worthy of His presence. But God had told David that he would not be the one to build Him a temple; it would be built by his son Solomon. However, I want you to notice the joy and the zeal with which David made the preparations for his son to build the temple. The key is: David loved God, and he

showed it with a humble heart, a grateful heart and a generous heart.

*1-2 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God. Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.*

Notice how David declared he prepared with all his might *for the house of my God*. David had a personal relationship with God. He knew God as friend, as father, as corrector when he sinned, as rewarder when he obeyed. God, to David, was *MY* God.

I believe we would have a lot easier time seeing our faith work if we related to God on an intimate level, as David did. He was not out to just collect blessings; he wanted to show his gratitude by giving blessings back to the God who had opened doors, won battles, forgiven his sins, cleansed him, and

rewarded him with a son who would carry on the desire of his heart.

*3-5 Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?*

From the wealth of his kingdom, David chose an incredible volume of treasures to dedicate to the temple. But he didn't feel that was enough to show his love for God. He explained to the people that he was also donating wealth from his own personal treasury.

After David explained what he was going to do, he asked the people, "Now what are you going to do?" What do you think happened? As a result of David's example, the leaders of all the tribes of Israel and all the people gave willingly and joyfully to build the temple.

*9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.*

When you give generously to the Lord, you can cause a wonderful chain reaction! Both your gift and your attitude are going to inspire others.

David made his offering perfect with his attitude of humility.

*13-14 Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.*

David demonstrated the attitude of gratitude which pleased God. He recognized God for who He was, and proclaimed that neither he nor the people would have had anything to give at all if it were not for the goodness of God. David's attitude is what the people copied. He demonstrated joy, thanksgiving, generosity and humility in his giving.

Isn't that true today as it was then? Do we really own anything or have anything in our bank accounts that would be there if not for the goodness of God? Even our minds,

our creative ideas, our talents and our potential for making money all have come to us through the goodness of God. We may own some things of value. We may have a good job. But life has upheavals that can take material things away in a heartbeat. It is recognizing and appreciating God's goodness that will keep us moving forward on a path of prosperity.

## **The Exciting Blessings of Tithing**

The tithe began long before David and even before there was a nation of Israel. The first tithe was given by Abraham in thanksgiving to the Lord, after receiving a spectacular victory over an enemy tribe. The enemy had stolen both people and goods from him and from his neighboring tribes (Genesis 14), and it was a glorious occasion when all was regained. Verses 18-20 describe Abraham voluntarily offering a tithe of everything to the Lord.

*Then Meichizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed*

*be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand”*

### **And he gave him a tithe of all.**

Abraham’s tithe was not required. It was a gift from the heart. He knew he would not have anything apart from God’s goodness, and he thanked Him generously. Isn’t that the way we are all supposed to respond to the goodness of God?

Many years later, the tithe was incorporated into the Law, and everyone was required to give a tenth of their increase. I expect that in those days many people gave the tithe just because they had to and not because they wanted to. Even though they would have nothing without God’s blessing, they became hard of heart in their giving back to God.

In Malachi 3:10, God gave a powerful motivation for people to really get involved in the tithe, because He was ready to respond in a big way to those who were obedient.

*“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven*

*and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”*

What a promise of God! If I had been one of those Israelites, I would have taken everything that I could tithe into the storehouse. I would have taken in two tithes, because I would have wanted everything that God had ready to pour through those windows of heaven.

It is interesting to me that God challenged them to “prove Him.” That was like saying to them, “See if I’m telling you the truth or if I’m lying.” We know God cannot lie, so that means He will back up His word with action every single time.

If you don’t think the tithe is for today, just look at Matthew 23:23 where Jesus said you ought to tithe and do more as well. God’s law didn’t end with Jesus; it was fulfilled. How could anybody pass up such an opportunity to just give a mere ten percent of your increase back to God and receive more from Him than your house could hold? Do you know anyone you could go into business with who would give you the same opportunity that God does?

In my entire life, I have never known a tither to be sorry that they tithed. I have heard testimony after testimony after



testimony of what God will do when someone makes a commitment and is faithful in tithing.

One tithing family we know has twelve beautiful, healthy children. They definitely had to get a larger house! But, just think – to have a large and healthy family with smart, perfectly formed children is an above-and-beyond blessing!

God can literally overflow your home with blessings so that you will need a larger home. His overflowing blessings might come in a number of other ways, as well – we can't limit God or put him into our boxed-in thinking.

Several years ago, a California family claimed the tithe blessing when their eight-year-old son was diagnosed with a type of terminal cancer. The boy's father got down on his knees and said, "God, I am a tither. My tithe is my part of the covenant; now You do Your part." The boy improved and never again had any sign of cancer. That is a windows-of-heaven, overflowing blessing!

There is a business expanding throughout Oklahoma and Texas, which tithes on all of its business profits. It also does not open its doors on Sundays. People today think it strange to have a business not open on

Sundays, but years ago, almost all businesses were closed on Sundays.

This business which faithfully honors God has grown to the point where they recently were able to write a \$70 million check to help a Christian university get out of debt.

Does your business tithe? Get ready for an explosion in your business. Your bank isn't going to be big enough to hold all that God is going to give you. God may call on you some day to write a \$70 million dollar check for His kingdom – but if you do, you will have so much left over that you won't miss it!

The tithe is one of the most exciting things we as Christians can do. We all should be bubbling over with joy as we give thanks to God and show Him we are serious about participating in a give- and-take relationship, with not just Him giving and us taking. God is excited about the tithe because it allows Him to pour out all those blessings that He has piled up in heaven, waiting for the opportunity to get them to us!

In Malachi 3:11, God adds to the tithing promise a reference to the devil, who comes to *steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)*.

*“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the Lord of hosts;*

One of our partners, a couple who has tithed all their married life, lives in a flood plain in Oklahoma. During a hundred-year flood in their area, rising water rushed into houses all around their neighborhood. The next day, carpets were lying on lawns all over the place. This couple had just bought thousands of dollars worth of brand new carpet, which had been delivered to their garage just prior to the flood. Their home not only did not get any water in it but, although the garage is lower than the street, not a drop of water went into the garage, and the rolls of new carpet remained perfectly dry. God rebuked the devourer on their behalf!

Wouldn't it be the most exciting thing in the world to have a book which just gave testimonies of all the ways the Lord has blessed people who tithed with a willing heart? I don't believe our bookshelves, or our house, or our city library would be able to contain all the volumes of testimonies of how God pours out His blessings on the

tither; but one day when we are all in heaven, it will be glorious to spend eternity sharing with one another all that God has done.

One of the reasons that God is a blessing God is that He is a proud parent. He wants to show off all the rewards that He heaps upon His children who are obedient.

*“And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts (Malachi 3:12).*

## **A New Giving Cycle**

In the Old Testament, God prepared, He created, and He gave. He initiated giving, because

He was so full of love for His new family. However, it did not take long for God to discover that He could not trust the human race, and He had to make some requirements. He said, “Ok, I’ll give, and then you give back to me.”

David is a good example because David received, and then David gave back to God. In the old covenant, God gave increase to those who were obedient, and then the people gave back to God when they received their harvest.

Let me show you what happened when Jesus came into the earth. With Jesus came a new covenant. In the new covenant, Jesus said something that, to me, is one of the most exciting things in the Bible – God gives you a money back guarantee that what you give to Him is going to come back to you!

Luke 6:38 says, *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

In the Living Bible, it says, *If you give, you will get!* How simple does God have to make it?

When God sent Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and for the redemption of our souls, God gave a new covenant because He realized the hardness of the human heart. He had said up until that time, “I’ll give, and then you will give back to me.” He changed it in the New Testament and said, “All right, you give first. I’ll see if you love me. I’ll see if you trust me. I’ll see if you are obedient. You give, and then I’ll give.”

Then God added the bonus. He is so excited about our giving that He promised

He would give back much more than we gave – good *measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

I have to be real honest with you. I thought for a long time, before I was saved, that the only ones who ever talked about money were preachers. Then I became a Christian and got into the word of God. I discovered that God has a tremendous amount to say about money. The interesting thing that you will notice is, when God talks about money, it is giving it away, giving it away, giving it away!

Did you ever get a bad attitude when a preacher took up an offering? I did. I would just sit there and mutter, “Money, money, money. That’s all they are interested in. That’s the only reason they want me to come to church.” Praise the Lord that I got saved and found out God’s view on money.

When people become uncomfortable as someone begins to talk about an offering, it’s because they don’t give enough. If you are fidgeting in your pew and squirming in your seat, it’s because you know that you are not fulfilling the word of God. What you are indicating when you squirm is that you

don't see why God wants your money and you don't believe He will give anything back to you. You're saying, "I really don't believe what God said."

When I look out into an audience at offering time and I see some people begin to shift, clear their throat, wiggle in their seats, I have to laugh. You have no idea how many times people decide that they have to have little bathroom privileges just at offering time. The reason is they know they are not giving enough. When you learn that the secret of prosperity is giving to God, you'll never be uncomfortable again. As a matter of fact, you won't be able to wait for offering time.

I often wonder what would happen if, at offering time, the speaker got up and said, "Will you all please open your wallets and purses right now because we're going to fill them up." Can you imagine the mad rush to get your wallet and purse? Wouldn't it be sensational to see everybody making a mad dash to get to the altar to make sure they got their share before the money ran out? But, the Bible has better news than that, because God's supply never runs out!

Offering time is blessing time. To the natural mind, it doesn't make sense that you

can be blessed when you give away money that you need yourself. Praise God that His word doesn't depend on what you think with your natural mind – His word is supernatural, and Jesus said you are going to receive when you give.

## **Advancing in Prosperity**

3 John 2 says, *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

When God talks about prospering, He means it for every area of your life. In the Amplified it says, *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers.*

Remember, there is a condition to all of God's promises. We need to put the whole package together – not just the beginning of the verse. The prosperity of your soul has a lot to do with the prosperity of your pocketbook. Let your soul get fat with God's word. Train your mind, will and emotions to apply God's principles. Every other area in your life will follow the prosperity of your soul, including your pocketbook.



My Webster's dictionary defines "prosper" as: *to advance or gain in anything good or desirable*. God wants your body to prosper. He wants your marriage to prosper. He wants your family relationships to prosper. He wants your business relationships to prosper. He wants your church relationships to prosper. Every area of your life can prosper if your soul is prospering.

Did you ever have a time when things looked so bad in your life that you thought, "God doesn't love me. God has forgotten all about me. Here I am, down here all by myself. He's not even thinking about me at all." When your soul is prospering in the word of God, you know that you know that God is thinking about you all the time. You know that, in His wonderful, loving heart, His desire is for you to prosper in every area – spirit, soul, body, marriage, children, finances, business, ministry, gifts and callings. When you train your soul, your faith will grow.

I was talking to a woman at church who has had a very tragic life. Her first husband ran off with another woman, so she had to divorce him. She married a second time, and her second husband was killed in a horrible

automobile accident. She married again, and her next husband committed suicide. She said to me, “Everything I have ever had, I have laid on the altar of God; why does God keep taking it away? Do you really mean that God wants me to prosper?”

I said, “Yes. What did you do when those things happened?”

She answered, “I walked away from God.”

I told her, “You’ve got the answer right there.”

You cannot just walk with God when you think things are going well. If you can be faithful and you can be obedient to God, then I guarantee you that God will help you to overcome any circumstance in your life. There isn’t a single place in God’s word where He says, “I want you to be sick and I want you to be poor.” What He does tell us in very simple words is, “If you give, you will receive.”

## **Giving is Living!**

You have to give first. Then God will give back to you. I learned this even before I was saved. At the time, I didn’t realize that

God's Holy Spirit had revealed to me one of the greatest truths in the Bible.

I was in a hospital prior to an eye operation, and just to do the right spiritual thing, I opened my Bible and read the first verse of the twenty-third psalm. Then I closed the Bible and began to pray, "Oh, God don't let the operation hurt tomorrow. I can stand anything, but don't let it hurt when they operate on my eye." I did what we all are prone to do. I really ignored God during the good times, and then I ran screaming for help when the tide went against me.

I tried to recall the words I had read: *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Then I picked up my Bible again to look and see what I had actually said. I think what I saw that night was the handwriting of God. I opened my Bible, and, to my amazement, God had wiped all the printing right off those pages. God had written on them, with His finger dipped in the blood of Jesus, five words. He wrote, "Frances Gardner (that was my name then), I love you."

Of all the people in the world, God personally told me that He loved me.

What happened to me at that instant was, in one world-shattering moment, I got a glimpse of what my life had been — a

constant “Oh, God, do this for me. Oh, God, do that for me. Oh, God, give me this and this and this.” And I had never once thought as to what I could do for Him.

I really didn’t know what I was doing at that moment, but I said, “God, I take back that prayer. I don’t care how much it hurts tomorrow, but I promise you this – when I get out of this hospital, I will spend the rest of my life seeing what I can do for Jesus Christ and not what He can do for me.”

Do you know what? I didn’t realize it, I had no idea that as a rank sinner, I was speaking the real answer to everything in the Christian life – giving.

In that transforming moment, I changed my prayer from, “Oh, God, do this for me; Oh, God, give me this, this, this...” to “God, I will spend the rest of my life seeing what I can do for Jesus Christ and not what He can do for me.”

I did not become a Christian until I was forty- nine years of age. I praise the Lord because the first place He got me was in the pocketbook. He said, “The devil has had your money long enough; now I want it.” Then He said, “Give me 20% of everything you’ve got.” I was so excited because I finally discovered that God loved me. I was

so excited that all my sins were forgiven and there wasn't any guilt left. I really thought that 20% was God's charge for saving me. I didn't know any better. All I knew was that in a beautiful instant, in the twinkling of an eye, God forgave every sin that I had ever committed; and I didn't even know salvation was free.

In my complete ignorance of what the word of God promised, somehow I knew I had to be obedient to God. I had never read the word of God. I didn't know anything about the promises of God. All I knew was I was born again. I said, "If You want what is left of this mess, take all my life, not just part." I had no idea that God wanted me to prosper and be in health even as my soul prospered. I didn't know anything except something had happened to me, and I had fallen in love with a man named Jesus. All I wanted to do was love Him and listen to Him and obey Him.

I began giving God 20% of everything I had. I didn't know anything about Luke 6:38. Nobody ever told me that if I gave to God, He was going to multiply it back to me. That doesn't make any difference — whether you are ignorant or not of God's

word, He has to fulfill His word when you have fulfilled the condition.

God began to give back to me. How He shoveled it back on me was unbelievable. He pressed it down, He shook it together, He let it run all over the place. Do you know what I had to do then? I had to give it back to God. Then He gave to me. I gave to Him. He gave to me. I gave to Him. He gave to me. We have been having a running battle for years, and I have never been able to out-give God. You will never, ever be able to out-give God. The fantastic thing is, I have never had a need in my life, and neither will you.

I have heard of so many people who have had a struggle in their Christian life after being born again. I have never had a problem in my spiritual life, and I believe the reason is because God got my pocketbook the day He got me. God never really has you until He has your pocketbook.

When you learn to give to God, you will learn the secret of living, because the secret of living is giving. My life has never been the same since I said, "God, I'm willing to do anything I can for you. I don't ask You to do a thing for me; I just want to do everything I can for You."

Watch what God does when you are willing to do that. In the Living Bible it says, *Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over.* That is not a maybe.. .God says that is the way He will return it to you.

If you give love, you are going to get back love. If you give fellowship, you're going to get back fellowship. If you give time to God, you're going to get back more time than you know what to do with. If you give money to God, you'll get back money.

## **God's Accounting System**

The next phrase is where so many people get trapped. *Whatever measure you use to give, large or small, will be used to measure what is given back to you.* According to the word of God, we actually are the ones who control the amount that God gives back to us, because He is going to use the same measure that we used in giving to Him, to give back to us.

In the back of my Bible, I have a tiny spoon. I often get tea on a plane, and the airlines give a little spoon to stir it with – I think it is the tiniest spoon I have ever seen

in my life. The bowl of the spoon at the longest part is about a half inch and is about three-eighths of an inch wide. It is probably a sixteenth of an inch deep. You can visualize in your mind what a tiny little spoon this is.

If I gave to God with that little spoon, God, by His word, is obligated to use that same little tiny spoon to measure what he will press down, shake together, run over and then give back to me. How long do you think it would take to move a mountain with a little bitty spoon like that? Remember, God can only work with what you give Him.

Now I want you to think about something else. Picture a nice big bushel basket. You can get a lot into a bushel basket. If you give to God with a great big bushel basket, just think how God can press it down, shake it together and run it all over the place when He gives it back to you.

What is your part? Give generously to God. If you will do your part, God will do His part. You give generously. He gives generously.

I want to put your mind at rest, because there are people reading this right now who are thinking, "Well, there's no way I can use



a big bushel basket to give to God because I only have a teaspoon income.”

Your generosity is not based on an amount but on your attitude and the proportion that you give of what you have to give. If you have fifty cents and give a nickel or dime, you are giving as much in proportion as someone who has fifty thousand dollars and gives five or ten thousand. God’s accounting is not like a bank on earth – God’s accounting system is based on supernatural insight that He has into every situation. His system is based on the principle of you releasing what you have and trusting Him to multiply it back to you.

Remember the little widow who lived during a time of severe famine throughout the land (I Kings 17:8-15). She had about a half cup of flour and a little oil in the kitchen, and she was going to feed her son and then prepare to die of starvation. God knew this woman’s heart, just as He knows everything about each one of us. He sent his prophet Elijah to her because God knew she would be willing to give all she had to the man of God.

Elijah came along and, knowing the woman had only a little handful of flour, asked her to feed him first. She took of what

she had and offered it as unto the Lord, and God multiplied back to her enough food to feed her son and Elijah and herself for the entire duration of the famine.

That woman was not able to give a bushel basket of food to Elijah, but she willingly gave a handful. God then gave her more than a three year supply of food – good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. God’s prosperity laws are based on obedience, attitude, and generosity, no matter what the amount is that you are able to begin giving to Him. I also want you to notice that God didn’t give her dollars in her bank account – money would not have helped her because there was no food available to buy. So God gave her something far more valuable. When you give to God, His return gift to you will be exactly what you need and will be right on schedule.

## **God’s Interest Rate**

Have you ever set aside a little money in a savings account? You put that money into savings so that it will draw interest and will be worth more at the end of the year. The interest rate could be anywhere from two

percent to five percent. If you have some money invested in the stock market, you might get ten or fifteen percent return in a good year. Do you know what God's interest rate is? Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 19:29.

*And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.*

Jesus said that you will receive a hundred times as much in return. One hundred times more is 10,000 percent! Plus, He's going to give you eternal life!

In a lot of our services, there are people who say, "I don't believe what you are saying." It's all right if you don't believe what I say, but this is what the word of God says. If God says that He is going to give back a hundred fold, I believe with my heart and soul that God is going to give it back a hundred fold. I have seen Him do it over and over again.

We received a letter from a lady who wrote to tell us what happened after she gave a sacrificial gift at one of our meetings. This is what she said:

“At one of your meetings this summer I gave twenty dollars. Frances prayed that the gift would be multiplied a hundred fold. In September, we were given fifteen hundred dollars from a source we never dreamed of. I never connected the two incidents until I received a Hunter Prayer Letter this week. However, then I wondered about the other five hundred dollars, since she had prayed for a hundred fold and we had only received fifteen hundred dollars. When I asked God, He reminded me that my son had received a five hundred dollar scholarship to Oral Roberts University for this year. Praise God.”

Isn't it wonderful that, even though God may not give it to you all at one time, He does get around to eventually giving the whole amount to you?

When Charles and I give our offerings in church, we fold our check and put it in between Luke 6:38 and Matthew 19:29; and then we say, “God, we expect you to act.”

But let me remind you – there is a condition to that hundred fold interest rate that God promises.

If you are willing to give up the things that you hold dear to you, and put God in the highest priority position in your life – do

what He tells you to do and go where He tells you to go – then God will return your gift to you a hundred times over. We have to meet God's conditions to make His promises a reality. God wants you to prosper in exactly the same manner that your soul is prospering. Your soul cannot prosper until you are willing to do your part and give God authority over your entire life.

Recently, someone said to me, "What did it cost you to get where you are today?"

I simply replied, "Nothing, except my whole life."

That's all it takes, just your whole life. The minute you are willing to say, "God, I will give You everything You want, I will give You first place in my life. I will do whatever You ask me to do." Then God will begin to move in the finances of your life.

When you say that, you had better mean it, because God looks deep into our hearts, and He knows exactly what our intentions are. Are you willing to say, "God, I will serve You even if I never have one dollar more than I have right now?" If you mean that down in the deepest recesses of your soul, that's when God can begin to open the windows of heaven in your life.

It is always interesting when people are willing to try and see if God really does mean what He says. Another lady wrote us and said she had been to one of our meetings and had heard me say that God would give back a hundred fold. She said, “God, that’s all right for an evangelist. I know they have ways because they take up offerings and they can get their money back. But how can a poor little housewife like me ever get it back? There’s no way I could receive a hundred fold.” Then, she said, “God, I believe You. I believe that Frances read from the word of God. I believe the word of God is true. So, God, I’m going to try You and I’m going to test You, and I’m going to prove You, just like You said over in Malachi. I’m going to prove you, God, and see if You will give it back to me a hundred fold.”

This woman was a totally committed Christian. She had given her whole life to God and sought first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Before she got out of that meeting, someone walked over to her and said, “The Lord impressed me to give you this.” He handed her a twenty dollar bill. No one had ever done that to her in her entire life.

The next day, she got a check for fifteen hundred dollars from the government, with a letter which said, “We made a mistake in your income tax, and we are returning this amount to you.” The refund was from a certain year for which she had never dreamed there was an error. She could not believe the government would ever make a mistake or that they would send money back. But there it was.

By this time, her cup was really running over.

Then God did the final thing. She went into the bathroom, and when she unrolled the Charmin, out fell a twenty dollar bill! God really goes out of His way once in a while, doesn't He, to prove a point? I wouldn't suggest you go around your house and make an inventory of everything, but you never know!

## **All These Things Shall be Added**

Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

What kinds of things will God add to if you seek Him first and His righteousness? I

believe He will add the things you need most and desire most. He may even add things you don't realize that you need, but because of the incredible Father's love He has for you, He will add just the right things unto you.

One of the things that God added to me was so amazing that I still get excited just thinking about how wonderful God was to bless me when I didn't even know I needed to be blessed.

I had met Charles Hunter at a gathering and I never had even one date with him. I saw him that one time and never saw him again until he came to Miami to claim me for his bride!

The day that God spoke to me that I was to marry Charles, I was in church, and I was absolutely miserable. I was standing up there proclaiming the word of God and saying, "Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing is impossible to God." Do you know who got convicted? I did. The preacher is always the one that gets convicted the most by what he or she is saying.

God said to me, "You keep telling that audience that nothing is impossible to Me, and yet you don't think you can marry Charles. You don't think you can be an



evangelist and do what I have called you to do and still marry Charles. You think it's impossible, even though you are telling people that nothing is impossible for Me."

I was the first one to the altar that day. I did not even walk around to the altar; I jumped over the altar and was the first one there at the altar call. I was kneeling there and just crying all over the place. I said to God, "God, either get Charles into my life one way or the other or get him out," because I was completely miserable.

That afternoon, I went back to the room where I was staying. I said, "God, I am so miserable." God does not want you to be miserable, but sometimes He can really speak to you when you are in that condition and you cry out to Him. I said, "God, every time I think about You, I think about Charles and I think about Jesus. I get the whole bunch of you all mixed up."

God spoke to me as clearly as if He were standing beside me. He said, "Because you have sought first My kingdom and My righteousness, I am adding Charles to you. I am adding a husband to your life — a husband to love you, to protect you, to cherish you, to be a father to Joan. I'm

giving you this thing that you need in your life.”

Because I truly gave all of me to God, He added to me the most wonderful husband in the world. We have been able to do more for God than I could ever have done alone, so God fulfilled the deepest desires of my heart in every way.

There are many things God wants to add to us – happiness, health, prosperity, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. When Jesus said to the crowd, *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*, they were concerned about food and clothes and a home to live in. In today’s language, they were worried about their house payments, car payments and clothes or tuition for their children. Jesus said that all of these things would be added to them, but He also indicated that the Father knows every type of thing that His children need – and all those things will be provided by seeking Him first.

## **How to Get a Promotion**

I’m going to give you another key to your prosperity, and this is a very practical

type of giving which can allow God to bless your life. In the Living Bible, Ephesians 6:5-8 says,

*Slaves, obey your masters; be eager to give them your very best. Serve them as you would Christ. Don't work hard only when your master is watching and then shirk when he isn't looking; work hard and with gladness all the time, as though working for Christ, doing the will of God with all your hearts. Remember, the Lord will pay you for each good thing you do, whether you are slave or free.*

I want you to apply that scripture in your everyday life by substituting the words “employer” and “employee.”

*Employee, obey your employer; be eager to give him your very best. Serve him as you would Christ. Don't work hard only when your employer is watching and then shirk when he isn't looking; work hard and with gladness all the time...*

One of the best ways I know to have prosperity in your life is to do a better job than anybody else, because then your employer can give you a raise. Dress yourself in a professional manner. Keep your hair clean and looking nice. Be there early, and do more than is required. Be

respectful. Be cheerful. You will begin to stand out from among the crowd. Most of you spend a lot of time on the job, so a lot of your opportunity to plant seeds of prosperity will be at your work place. Your conscientious job performance is just another way of giving that will enable you to receive. Promotion will be in your future, and you will be putting money in the bank.

### **The Joy of a Giving Lifestyle**

God has a lot to say about giving. The Bible uses the word *give* 816 times. God is a giver. He is generous. It is not any surprise that He places such significant emphasis on His children learning to give.

In Matthew 10:8 Jesus says, ...*Freely you have received, freely give. Freely* simply means *generously*. God never tells you to give in a stingy manner. He tells you to give liberally. When you have a constant fear of giving or a dread that you will do without something you really need, that is just the devil talking to you. The devil knows what the word of God says, and he doesn't want you to receive God's blessings. He doesn't want God's people to become prosperous, because then they will give more and more,

and God's kingdom will grow larger and larger.

The entire chapter of 2 Corinthians 9 is a profound teaching on God's prosperity. In verse 6, Paul explains the principle of sowing and reaping:

*But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* If a farmer wants a big crop, he plants a lot of seeds. If he wants a little crop, he plants few seeds. What kind of crop do you want?

Verse 7 says, *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Examine your heart, and determine your attitude for giving. If you give bountifully when you really want to give sparingly, you are giving with a grudging heart. When you feel you have to do something but you don't want to, you are destroying the blessings of God for yourself.

The next time you are in church, when you write out your check, hold it up in the air and thank God for the opportunity to give. Thank Him for souls that are going to be saved and for lives being changed as a result of the offering you are giving. Thank God for that person in Africa who is going

to receive a Bible and medical help, food or fresh water. Thank God for your money being able to go all the way around the world, or to go right into your neighborhood to help some homeless person or drug addict find out that they can be delivered through Jesus Christ.

Claim the eternal value of the money you give, and thank God that when your money is put together with all the other money that is received in the offering, mighty things will be accomplished. Your heart is going to be cheerful when you give that way. You are going to get excited that you are in a partnership with God to get His will done in many people's lives. When you really get involved in what your money will accomplish for God's glory, you won't be satisfied until you are a generous, abundant giver.

Here is some practical advice. God's word always has a balance. Look what 2 Corinthians 8:12 says in the Living Bible:

*If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you haven't.*

Did you notice that little warning? Don't write any "hot checks!" I've known people

who tried to fool God by putting a bad check into the offering, but God knows very well what you have given and what you haven't.

There might be someone whose heart is moved with compassion during a special offering, and they write a check on money that is not in their account, and convince themselves that God is going to put the money in there before the check bounces. That is not what God wants you to do, and He is not going to cover your bad checks. He wants a cheerful giver but also an honest giver. You can start by giving real cash or a check for a real amount, even though it may be small; and when God multiplies your money back to you, then you can give more and more.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (TLB) describes what God will do. *And God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.*

First, God wants you to give cheerfully, in faith, as a partner with Him. Start with the tithe, and then add your offerings. Give, believing His word that He will give back to you. Next, after He blesses you by supplying above and beyond all your needs, you move

to a new level. You have the joy of being able to give all over the place. The New King James says, *that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.* What a joy to be able to give abundantly to every good work that God lays on your heart!

The Living Bible, verses 9-14 shows a beautiful chain reaction to the giving cycle of you giving, then God giving, then you giving, then God giving.

*It is as the Scriptures say: The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever. For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.*

Whenever I read that, I have to rejoice and thank God for being so just and so generous. He is bound by His word to give you back more and more and more each time you give as you purpose in your heart, with a true joy in giving, and with faith expecting your harvest.

Now, in verses 13 and 14, look for four incredible benefits of getting into a lifestyle of giving:



*Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise God for your help. So, two good things happen as a result of your gifts – those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God. Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine. And they will pray for you with deep fervor and feeling because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.*

When you develop a lifestyle of giving:

God will bless you with an overflow so that you can help more people.

People are blessed, as their needs are met spiritually and in the natural.

God will receive praise and thanksgiving from those who receive your gifts.

Those you helped will pray for you with fervent love.

There is actually a fifth benefit in that passage, and I saved it for last in order to emphasize the impact of your being a generous giver. A lot of times people judge Christians by what they give and not by what they say. You can preach all day long

to a crowd of lost souls who are suffering from lack of food, and you might get a little response at an altar call. But if you go in there with a truckload of rice and beans and baby food and stop the pain in their stomachs, they are going to hear the Gospel you preach with open ears, and they will come running to the altar to receive Christ.

That is true on a small scale, as well. God wants you to be sensitive to the needs of those around you. When you help someone's needs to be met, they will see for themselves *that your deeds are as good as your doctrine*.

## **Where is Your Treasury?**

The 18th chapter of Luke contains one of the saddest stories in the Bible. A Jewish religious leader asked Jesus how he could get to heaven. He assured Jesus that he faithfully obeyed all of the commandments. Jesus answered, *There is still one thing you lack. Sell all you have and give the money to the poor – it will become treasure for you in heaven – and come, follow me (Luke 18:22 TLB)*.

This young man was a religious leader, but he really didn't know the scriptures or he

would have known that, even by Old Testament law, he would not be able to out-give God. He had studied Deuteronomy and Isaiah, and yet he was afraid to give his money to God. His faith was in his money, and he kept it.

The thing I think is so sad is that nowhere in the word of God does it ever record that this man was saved. He was interested in salvation only until Jesus talked about giving away his money. The thing that really breaks my heart is that Jesus invited him to come and follow Him. I believe he lost his opportunity to become one of Jesus' disciples just because he could not part with his possessions.

Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21:

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

If you put your treasure – your money – into the things of this world, that is what is going to own your heart.

Do you do anything or own anything which robs money from your family? If you are constantly pouring money into an object or a hobby or an activity which deprives your family of the changes of clothes they need or the shoes they outgrow, or the bills getting paid on time, then your treasure and your heart are somewhere they should not be. If your personal interests keep you out of church or prevent you from opening your wallet to respond to an offering, then your treasure and your heart are in the wrong place.

You are going to receive from God exactly the way that you respond to Him when He lays someone's need on your heart.

I am going to ask a question that you may think is not necessary. After all, we are having a wonderful spiritual feast on God's generosity and His desire to bless you and how He will help you to bless others. But, I'm going to stop right now, and ask you this question: Do you love money? Do you love *your* money?

You might have to think real hard. Think about what you do with your money. Where does it go? What do you do when you receive bonus money?

What would you say if Jesus asked you to part with your money? Did you know that in the Bible there were heathen kings who would offer to part with half of their entire kingdom for someone they wanted to honor? Would you be willing to part with half of everything you own to honor God?

I have heard Christians that thought it was spiritual to say, “Money is the root of all evil.” They had not actually read their Bible. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, *For the love of money is the root of all evil (KJV)*. The Living Bible says, *For the love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it, and as a result have pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

I pray with all my heart that everyone reading this book has been delivered from any love of money that might ever have been a problem for them. Money isn't evil. You can't buy gasoline without money. You can't buy clothes without money. You can't get on an airplane and take a missions trip somewhere in the world without money. Just examine your heart and make sure that your love for God is the treasure of your heart and your obedience to Him is a higher priority than your money.

## **Expect to Receive from God**

Did you know that your mouth is full of money? Living in God's prosperity and appropriating God's prosperity is so simple because it is really just a question of believing God and appropriating that power. Mark 11:23-24 shows us a principle of expectancy that makes your faith produce results.

*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

God said that you can talk to your mountain. You can talk to your debt. You can command it to be gone. When you pray and believe without a doubt that you are going to receive that mountain cast away into the sea, that is exactly where that mountain is going.

What do you do when you pray? You believe you receive the things you desired.

When do you believe? You believe when you pray.

How do you put action to your faith? Speak to the problem and speak the solution. Confess the word of God over your mountain.

How do you keep your faith working? You don't doubt. You praise God for the answer.

What happens when you pray this way? You are going to receive. Does that scripture say you might receive? Does it say you have a 50/50 chance of receiving? NO. It says you are going to receive.

The condition is simply to not doubt in your heart. You have to make up your mind. Can you really trust God? Would God lie? Can you believe and stand on God's word with your heart and mind and body and soul and know that you know that God will do what He said?

Of course, you can. God's word says that God cannot lie. The Almighty God who created this universe cannot lie. Whenever the scripture says *Whosoever shall* say... that means you and that means me. If you are the whosoever that speaks to that mountain, or confesses that desire of your heart, you are going to receive it, if you believe when you pray.

Psalm 84:11 says, *No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

You can count on the generous nature of a loving God. God is a giver. He truly is always looking for ways to bless the righteous. If there is a good thing that you want, and you know it is something that is not offensive to God, you can have it. You can expect Him to work on your behalf.

Psalm 42:11 (TLB) says, *But O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act!*

Expect God to act! If you really expect God to act in the finances of your life, He will. When you begin confessing with your mouth that you expect God to multiply your offering back to you, He will. When you believe that you receive a great harvest from the financial seed you planted, you will receive it.

Sometimes you are going to receive in the twinkling of an eye. Other times you are going to have to wait patiently and give your harvest time to grow. That is when you will need to water your offerings with faith, confess God's promises of prosperity, and don't let any seeds of doubt sneak in to destroy your harvest. Then thank Him and



keep on thanking Him for multiplying your finances.

You can be specific with God. If you need a certain amount of money, and if you apply the principles throughout this book, you can pray right now and ask for what you need. Believe that you receive, and thank Him for the exact amount of money you need. God has not gone bankrupt. He knows how to get the money to you. Expect God to act, and He will!

In God's financial prosperity for you, remember, there is your part, and there is God's part. It is a cycle of giving. You do your part, God does His part.

Your part is giving. God's part is giving back more than you gave.

Your part is walking uprightly, living a life that honors God. His part is not withholding any good thing from you.

Your part is saying and believing. God's part is giving you what you say and believe.

Your part is laying up treasures in heaven – not on this earth, but treasures in heaven. God's part is giving you more and more so that you can give away more.

Your part is sowing generously. God's part is giving you enough to reap bountifully.

Your part is seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness. God's part is adding all these things unto you.

Your part is giving up everything. God's part is giving it back to you one hundred fold.

Your part is expecting God to act. God's part is fulfilling His promises to you.

### **Keep Speaking Faith Words!**

I am going to give you some prosperity promises to read, meditate on, and speak continually over your life. I have gone through my Bible and marked all of the scriptures which I've already shared in this book, and the ones I am about to share, plus many more. After each of these promises, I want you to thank God and make that scripture your personal confession. Let those faith words produce expectancy for God to act!

**Philippians 4:19** *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* How much of your need will God supply? All of it. Not a little. ALL.

**Psalms 1:1-3** *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor*

*stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

When you delight yourself in knowing God, thinking on his word night and day, and wanting to do everything He wants you to do, everything you do will prosper.

**Psalm 34:10** *The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.*

**Proverbs 8:17-21** *I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.*

Do you love God? Then you are going to seek Him diligently, and you will qualify for Him to cause you to inherit wealth.

**Proverbs 10:22** The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

**Proverbs 11:24-25** *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

This means that the more you give away, the richer you become.

**Proverbs 11:28** *He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.*

You cannot trust in money. Keep your trust where it belongs, in God's word, and you will be like a plant which is thriving.

**Proverbs 19:23** *The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.*

Just think how much money you will save because you will not be visited with evil.

**Proverbs 22:4** *By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.*

Have you noticed that many of the promises concerning prosperity also concern health and long life? If you fear the Lord and live to honor Him, which is the first and

most important requirement for prosperity, your health will be good, which will also save you a mountain of money, plus God will heap financial blessings on you.

If you can trust God with your soul, you can trust Him with your money. The secret to financial increase is giving, giving, giving. You might love the Lord and fear Him as far as living a godly life, but hold on to your money out of fear of lack, and you won't receive much in the way of increase. God will take care of you and provide for your needs the best He can, but a life of giving releases the overflow of blessings.

When you give to God, this starts the return cycle so that God can give back to you. In the Old Testament, remember that God gave first. But in the New Testament, if you want the real prosperity of God, you have got to release your faith and give to God so that the return cycle will move into action.

In the natural, it doesn't make sense. In the natural, you empty your pocketbook and you are broke. In God's financial system, you give and you get. Each time, God gives you back more than you gave to Him. You cause a wonderful chain reaction. You give to God. He gives to you. You are able to

bless the lost, the needy, the hungry and the naked. They rejoice and give praise to God. You are able to be a true witness of the love of Jesus. People pay attention to you because you're not stingy. They get born again and healed. More praise goes up to God. Hallelujah!

The measure you give, whatever measure you use, will be given back to you.

## **Your Prosperity Blessing**

I want to close this prosperity feast with Psalm 112. It is a blessing that I am pronouncing over you right now, in the name of Jesus:

*Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

*Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.*

*Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion.*

*Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting*

*remembrance. He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies.*

*He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be exalted with honor.*

I want you to do one thing. I want you to make a covenant with God that you are going to start giving to God's work more than you ever have in your entire life. Keep your Bible open and read, underline, learn and say God's prosperity promises. Give. Believe. Receive. Give more. Believe. Receive more. Give!

Expect God to act!

## **MEMORIZE THESE PROSPERITY SCRIPTURES**

***Malachi 3:10 NIV*** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

***Psalms 84:11*** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

***Ecclesiastes 2:26 NIV*** To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

***Matthew 6:33*** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.



**3 John 2** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

**Ecclesiastes 11:1** Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

**Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

**2 Corinthians 9:6 TLB** But remember this – if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.

**Philippians 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**1 Kings 1:16** The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

**Proverbs 3:33** The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just.

***Matthew 6:19-21 AMP*** Do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

***Psalms 111:5*** He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

***Proverbs 8:17-21*** I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.

***Deuteronomy 28:2 AMP*** And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake

you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.

***Proverbs 10:22*** The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

***Luke 11:9-10*** So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

***Psalms 68:19*** Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation! Selah

***Deuteronomy 28:7 AMP*** The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

***Psalms 85:12*** Yes, the LORD will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.

***Deuteronomy 28:3 AMP*** Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.

***Deuteronomy 28:5 AMP*** Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.

***Deuteronomy 28:6 AMP*** Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.

***Deuteronomy 28:8 AMP*** The Lord shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouse and in all that you undertake. And He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

***Deuteronomy 28:11 AMP*** And the Lord shall make you have a surplus of prosperity, through the fruit of your body, of your livestock, and of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.

***Psalms 23:1*** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

***Deuteronomy 28:12 AMP*** The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

***Proverbs 13:22 AMP*** A good man leaves an inheritance [of moral stability and goodness] to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner [finds its way eventually] into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up.

***Proverbs 16:3 AMP*** Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.

***Isaiah 54:17*** No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.

***Isaiah 55:11*** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, (empty, without fruit), but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.



# *Feasting on Prosperity*

*God has so much to say about prosperity that both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of instructions on how to receive financial blessings. When Christians really develop the right thinking, there is going to be a transfer of wealth in the body of Christ which will knock Satan over. It takes money to do what God wants done. When you apply God's principles, you are going to get right in the middle of God's will for prosperity!*

## *About the Authors*



*"The Happy Hunters"*

Evangelists Charles and Frances Hunter have been teaching and ministering God's word for over 40 years with best-selling books and healing seminars all over the world. Their writing and speaking style is simple and to the point as it relates to our every day life.